Assessment made simple

ISTAR-KR was developed over the last decade through the contributions of many early childhood experts across Indiana, including university personnel, community agency personnel, early childhood special educators and therapy providers. A federally-funded study was recently conducted to assure validity of the instrument.

ISTAR-KR is a derivative of the Foundations to the Indiana Academic Standards and is aligned to the Indiana Core Standards for Kindergarten in the areas of English/Language Arts and Mathematics. In addition, three functional areas are included: physical skills, personal care skills and social emotional skills.

To address these areas comprehensively, ISTAR-KR is comprised of 30 performance threads. Progressive skills are presented as rows of boxes.

Teachers and caregivers use the ISTAR-KR rating system to indicate the skill that best represents the performance level of the child in each of the 30 performance threads. The software can display a report of the individual progress of the child over time.

The assessment items are also aligned to the three outcome areas required for reporting of Part B and C programs to the federal government: social skills, knowledge acquisition and behaviors to meet needs.

The assessment of young children is best done in their natural environments by more than one rater observing children in a variety of typical learning experiences, daily routines, interactions and play.

Assessment data can help teachers and caregivers plan for developmentally appropriate, targeted learning experiences and can guide meaningful instructional planning in public preschool, child care and family settings.

For more information on how Community Early Childhood Education Programs can access ISTAR-KR contact:

scrawford@doe.in.gov

ISTAR-KR is provided

to schools and community

early childhood education

settings

by the Indiana

Department of Education.

istar-KR
kindergarten readiness

Early Childhood Assessment

Accounting for progress ...one child at a time

- Web-based software provided without cost

- Aligned to Indiana Academic Standards

- Measures skills from infancy to kindergarten

- Identifies present skills and emerging skills

- Monitors child progress over time

- Informs teachers and parents of appropriate curricular activities

Sample ISTAR-KR SUMMARY REPORT

ISTAR KR Assessment
Assessment Type: Entrance
Date of Assessment: 10/7/2010

Student Name: Mc Donald, Elena
Birth Date: 10/2/2006
Grade: PK
Age in Months: 48

Shaded boxes identify skills that have been demonstrated by this child. White boxes identify skills to be achieved. The numbers between the boxes indicate the age range in months when a typically developing child would have demonstrated the skill in the previous box.

Mathematics

Core Standard 1: Number Sense

Counting and Quantity

No Evidence	Demonstrates awareness of the presence of objects	Identifies more	Uses numbers to compare	Names and orders quantities	Describes relationships between numbers and quantity
	4	22	40	49	61

Computation

No Evidence	Manipulates objects for a purpose	Matches objects and sets	Makes a set of objects smaller or larger	Follows models of addition or subtraction situations	Describes the application of addition and subtraction situations
	13	31	46	64	70

Core Standard 2: Geometry and Measurement

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Accounting for Progress...

Additional reports are available which provide more detail in each area and show progress from one year to the next over the life of your child.

Interpreting an ISTAR-KR Report

Each row displays boxes of progressive skills—youngest skills on left progressing to right. Shaded boxes represent the skills which the child can do independently. Boxes that are not shaded represent the skills which the child is yet to demonstrate.

The numbers between the boxes indicate the age range in months when a typically developing child would have demonstrated the skill in the previous box.

For more information, log on to:

www.doe.state.in.us
Select the ISTEP link
View ISTAR/ISTAR-KR and select Resources
or contact:
scrawford@doe.in.gov